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# Redefining French Women's Identity Through Challenging and Eroding the Napoleonic Code

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Oral Presentation O9.3

## **REDEFINING FRENCH WOMEN'S IDENTITY THROUGH CHALLENGING AND ERODING THE NAPOLEONIC CODE**

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After the French Revolution, newly self-appointed emperor Napoleon Bonaparte created Le Code Civil, or the Napoleonic Code. Such code outlines a new French Society with the foundation as the French family. Such code promoted order and chauvinist social norms, therefore oppressing French Women. After the implementation of this code, there were more governmental changes that provoked the rise of women's groups in the Third Republic and the important participation of women in the French Resistance during World War 2. These women challenged and resisted their societal role (as defined by the Code) causing the Code to slowly erode over time. Due to the previous sexist nationalistic ideals of France as stated in the Napoleonic Code, the identity of the French woman (defined by those nationalistic claims) was challenged by the efforts of women in the 3rd Republic and by women in the French Resistance during World War 2.